REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 4, 2005. Claims 1, 7, 9-17, and 29-54 are presented for examination, of which Claims are in independent form. Claims 2-6, 8, 18-20, and have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Claims 29-54 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 7, 9-17, and 21-28 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 17 has been amended to recite that the claimed program is stored in a computer-readable medium, in executable form. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 21-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims have been amended to change "said device" to --said image processing device--. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection also is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,378,070 (Chan et al.).

The present invention is directed to a technique for improving the usefulness of systems for managing the use of multiple networked apparatuses, such as output apparatuses, in such manner as to permit the achievement of desired levels of control (for example, being able to require use of an authorization device, such as a card, so that there is a record of which users have done what, and for which divisions or departments, for charging or auditing purposes). At

the same time, it is contemplated to achieve this without depriving users of the convenience of being able to use an output apparatus remotely.

The present invention is directed to an adjustment process between a remote control and a local control of an image processing device. Chan shows a secure printer that when a card with a user ID is inserted into its card reader, sends the ID to a print server for authentication and receives a document intended for the user and prints the document. Chan is silent as to the adjustment process.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing device that discriminates whether setting information for a first function of the device is being operated, and if the setting information is not being operated, determines whether execution of an operation command, provided from an operation unit of the device, for operating on setting information for a second function, is to be accepted. If it is determined that the execution of the operation command is to be accepted, the setting information for the second function becomes operable by the operation unit.

Chan relates to a system for secure printing, in which a user can specify that a particular print job is to be printed securely, and in such case, the document is encrypted using the public key of the intended recipient. A print server holds the encrypted document, encrypted session key and intended recipient's identify. The recipient inserts a smart card into a reader of the smart printer, and the identity of that person is sent to the server. Upon confirming that that person is the intended recipient of one or more secure print jobs, the server sends the encrypted document and session key to the printer. The latter forwards the encrypted session key to the

smart card, which decrypts that key, suing an embedded private key. The decrypted session key can then be used by the printer to decrypt the document, which is then printed.

Applicant submits, however, that nothing has been found in *Chan* that would teach or suggest discrimination means for "discriminating whether setting information for a first function of [the] image processing device is being operated", as recited in Claim 1. Nor has anything been found in that patent that would teach or suggest determination means for "determining whether execution of operation command for operating on setting information for a second function of said image processing device is to be accepted, the operation command being provided from an operation unit of said image processing device, if said discrimination means discriminates that the setting information for the first function is not being operated," as recited in that claim. For both these reasons, it is believed to be clear that claim 1 is allowable over *Chan*.

Independent Claim 33 is directed to an image processing device that, if a first function of the device is not being executed according to an operation command received from an information processing device, determines whether execution of an operation command, provided from an operation unit of the image processing device, for a second function, is to be accepted. If it is determined that the execution of the operation command is to be accepted, the second function of the image processing device becomes operable by the operation unit.

Again, nothing has been found in *Chan* that would teach or suggest these features.

Independent Claim 35 is directed to an image processing device that, if a first function of the device is not being executed according to an operation command entered via an operation unit of the device, determines whether execution of an operation command, received

from an information processing device, for a second function, is to be accepted. If it is determined that the execution of the operation command is to be accepted, the device enables the execution of the operation command for the second function received from the information processing apparatus.

Again, nothing has been found in *Chan* that would teach or suggest these features.

The other independent claims are each either a method, program or non-means-plus-function article claim respectively corresponding to one or another of apparatus Claims 1, 33 and 35, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with the latter claims.
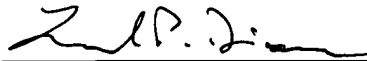
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

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